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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/08/2016
TAGS: PREL ENRG KSCA PARM KNNP ETTC IN CE
SUBJECT: SUPPORTING THE U.S.-INDIA CIVIL NUCLEAR
COOPERATION INITIATIVE

REF: STATE 34761

Classified By: Ambassador Jeffrey J. Lunstead for reason 1.4 (d).

During a March 8 call on Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera, the Ambassador briefed him on President Bush's visit to India, in particular the details of the U.S.-Indian Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative (reftel). Samaraweera listened carefully, particularly to the Ambassador's points about how the Initiative will pull India into the existing nonproliferation system and strengthen, not weaken, global non-proliferation efforts. Samaraweera called the Initiative "clearly very important" said his government would examine the details carefully to see if Sri Lanka could publicly support it. He agreed with the Ambassador's comment that increased cooperation between the U.S. and India on any subject could only work to Sri Lanka's benefit. LUNSTEAD